

SEPTEMBER 2017  
VOLUME 23, ISSUE 1

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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

# Newsletter



### **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ALABAMA PT / PTA LICENSE?**

[www.pt.alabama.gov](http://www.pt.alabama.gov)

Online Services

License Renewal Application

**ALL** 2016 licenses will expire at midnight September 30<sup>th</sup>! After October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Expired License Renewal fee and Restoration fee is in effect.

Practicing without a valid license is a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by a term of imprisonment of not more than 90 days, or both. ALA. CODE Section 34-24-196 (1975)

### **Continuing Education (What do you Need?)**

**ALL** licensees will need to have completed 10 hours of continuing education meeting the criteria listed on the website at [www.pt.alabama.gov](http://www.pt.alabama.gov), under continuing education. If you are a new graduate, regardless of what CAPTE accredited school, you do NOT need Continuing Education to complete your first renewal.

**ALL** licensees, licensed by Endorsement from another state in 2016, must complete a 2-hour Alabama Jurisprudence course (not the exam), before their first renewal. The two hours' jurisprudence may count toward the 10 hours of continuing education required for the renewal period.

**ALL** licensees must complete a 2-hour jurisprudence course every five years beginning in 2020.

If you experience any problems renewing your license online, please call Technical Support: 1-800-262-9898 or email: [support@alabamainteractive.org](mailto:support@alabamainteractive.org)

***Don't Delay, Renew Today!***

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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

## **New Consumer Member Appointed to the Board**



On July 18, 2017, Governor Kay Ivey appointed Margaret M. Hemm, Ed.D, CCC-SLP, of Mt. Olive, Alabama as Consumer Member to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy. Margaret's term will be through October 2021.

We are very excited to have Margaret on our board!

Margaret's educational background is impressive with her obtaining a Doctorate of Education, Administration, and Supervision along with a Masters and Bachelors of Speech-Language Pathology. She brings over 30 years' experience as an established leader in the long term care industry as a provider of rehabilitation services. She has established Occupational, Physical, and Speech-Language Pathology programs in a variety of settings by developing creative supervisory/management models and support systems to enhance the delivery of services to the elderly. She has served as

Vice President of the Speech-Language Hearing Association of Alabama, as a Chair and Board Member of the Alabama Board of Examiners, member of the National Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology, and served as a Board member of the National Association of Support of Long-Term Care.

Although Margaret retired in December 2015 from her career at Restore Management Company, she continues to be involved in advocacy efforts to support senior issues in Alabama. She devotes many hours to caring for her 87 year old mother and has experienced first-hand many of the challenges of an aging parent and seeking quality health care.

Please join us in welcoming Margaret M. Hemm to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy!

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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

# Newsletter

## **Physical Therapy Licensure Compact**

The State of Alabama Board of physical Therapy is considering joining the Physical Therapy Compact to address growing interest in proving licensure portability for military spouse, consumer access, and rural workforce needs.

According to the FSBPT, the Physical Therapy Compact is a state-based solution to the challenges of interstate licensure portability for physical therapist and physical therapist assistants. It will improve patient access to physical therapy services by giving eligible licensees in participating states a faster, less expensive alternative to traditional licensure. The Compact streamlines the mechanism for PT's and PTA's to practice across state lines. It may also reduce unemployment and underemployment caused by licensure delays for transferring military families.

Although the Physical Therapy Compact requires separate legislation, it does not change the scope of practice of PT's and PTA's; however, the therapists will be required to follow the practice act of the state where they're practicing.

If adopted, eligible PT's and PTA's in Compact states will have the option of obtaining a Compact Privilege in other participating states. To do so the licensed participant must hold a valid, current unrestricted license in their primary participating Compact state, and be free of any disciplinary actions for at least two years.

According to the FSBPT, fourteen states have currently adopted the Compact legislation. Alabama has two surrounding participating states which include Tennessee and Mississippi, with Compact legislation pending in Georgia and Florida. Alabama's participation seems to be a logical consideration at this time.

The Physical Therapy Compact is in the process of establishing rules and systems to effectively and efficiently process compact privileges, which will hopefully be available by 2018.

We encourage interested licensees to seek additional information through the Compact web site at [www.ptcompact.org](http://www.ptcompact.org), and would appreciate your feedback. Please share your thoughts with us on the Physical Therapy Compact by emailing us at [info@pt.alabama.gov](mailto:info@pt.alabama.gov).

Wiley Christian, III  
Board Chair

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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

# Newsletter

## **Wellness Program Update**

The Alabama Board of Physical Therapy continues to work with Dr. Michael Garver, DMD to provide an impaired practitioner program to licensees in the state of Alabama. This program is designed to help the impaired because of illness, inebriation, excessive use of drugs, alcohol, narcotics, chemicals or other substances, as a result of physical or mental condition. Currently there are 12 participants in the program with ten being self-reporters. The board provides the opportunity for self-reporting directly to the program director allowing the licensee to receive the much needed help without jeopardizing their license. Self-reporting avoids a board hearing, reporting with the National Practitioner Data Bank, and there is no public record. For assistance, physical therapist and physical therapist assistants should contact the program director at 1-855-865-6704.

Mentors are a huge part of the success of the program. Mentors are individuals with good communications skills who can show understanding, caring, and empathy for those who are struggling to permanently overcome their addictions. The program continues to seek volunteers from the state as a whole, to help guide the program participants and provide support. There is an increased need for mentors in the northern portion of the state. As a mentor, your name is kept confidential and participation duration is at your discretion. If you have once faced the obstacles of addiction, and see yourself providing mentorship to another licensee that may be facing similar obstacles, please contact Dr Garver to find out how you could help.

Nathan McGriff, PTA  
Board Liaison to Wellness Program

Dr. Michael Garver, DMD  
Wellness Program Director  
Phone: (251) 866-5570  
Fax: (251) 866-5585  
Email: [abptwellness@gmail.com](mailto:abptwellness@gmail.com)

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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

# Newsletter

## **A Parting Viewpoint**



My name is Richard V. Molyneux, I would like to take a moment to share my sincere thoughts. I was originally appointed to the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy in 2008, as the PTA Member representing the southern half of the state. I was reappointed in 2013. It has been a pleasure to serve the public in the capacity of a board member as my final term expires.

Since being on the board, we as a "board" have tried to change rules and regulations that can better ensure the safety and well-being of the people in the State of Alabama. From stricter rules on the supervision of physical therapy aides to the passage of limited direct-access, there have been many trials and tribulations that the board has encountered in the past ten years. For example: Our regulation of continuing education has changed so that there are many more vendors that offer courses to better ensure the competency of our licensees.

I have learned a tremendous amount from listening to my peers on and off the board. They have enlightened me on many situations that have been obstacles and barriers inhibiting the access of physical therapist and physical therapist assistants that serve the public.

The board has also strengthened its relationship with the Alabama Physical Therapy Association and have been cohesive in establishing rules that better serve the public. Not that it has always been an easy journey, but I must say it has been a true life changing experience. Furthermore, it has made me even more indebted to the people of the great State of Alabama.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that it has been a pleasure serving the people of our state and working with such great clinicians for the past ten years. Not to mention, the staff on the board is great and does impeccable work for us all. I owe them for the perseverance and fortitude displayed on a daily basis. If there is any way that I may help anyone in pursuit of serving the people, I would love to help.

Sincerely,

Richard V. Molyneux,  
PTA Board Member

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# Alabama Board of Physical Therapy Newsletter

## **Continuing Education**

As we reach the final days of the annual license renewal period, there is some important information we'd like to share with licensees as a reminder of the continuing education requirements.

The board does not pre-approve any activities for continuing competence credit. A licensee can determine the acceptability of a course or activity based on the descriptions contained in the rules, which can be accessed on the Alabama Board of PT website at [www.pt.alabama.gov](http://www.pt.alabama.gov), under the Continuing Education link. Also, under Rules and Regs, the current Alabama Administrative Code, in section 700-X-2-.08 Renewal of License, describes the expectations for continuing education.

Excluded from credit for continuing competence activities:

- Orientations, in-services, staff meetings, informal rounds, case conferences, equipment or procedural updates, CPR, blood-borne pathogens, or other regularly scheduled education opportunities provided within the employment setting.
- Policy making, committee, non-educational, entertainment or recreational meetings at annual conferences, chapter or organizational meetings.
- Serving as an officer or organizational delegate.
- Visiting exhibits or poster presentations.
- Entry-level coursework, activities, or presentations made by the lay public or non-medical professionals.
- Activities of less than fifty (50) minutes duration.

It is the responsibility of the therapists to read the guidelines and choose their courses per the criteria listed in the rules.

Please remember, there are random audits of continuing education submitted at the time of renewal. It is very important that licensees retain their actual certificates of continuing education completed for five years in the event you are selected. If selected for audit, the licensee has ten days to submit their documentation to the Board's office.

Board staff is available to assist licensees in understanding the requirements described in the rules if necessary. We can be reached at 334-242-4064 or by email: [info@pt.alabama.gov](mailto:info@pt.alabama.gov)

Sheila Wright,  
Executive Assistant III

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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

# Newsletter

## **Our Mission**

The mission of the Alabama Board of Physical Therapy is to actively promote and protect the health of the citizens of Alabama through effective regulation of the profession of physical therapy.

## **Our Core Values**

### ***Standards.***

Ensure that individuals practicing physical therapy meet sufficient standards of education, training, competence, and ethics, as defined in the laws and rules governing the profession.

### ***Advocacy.***

Define and advocate for standards of safe physical therapy practice, and ensure that the laws and rules governing the practice accurately reflect current standards.

### ***Awareness.***

Provide information about the physical therapy licensees, the Board's functions and operations, and the laws governing the practice of physical therapy.

### ***Guardianship.***

Investigate and discipline licensees whose practice fails to meet the minimum standards of professional practice.



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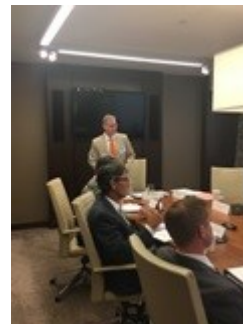
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Alabama Board of Physical Therapy

# Newsletter

**August 11, 2017 Board Meeting in conjunction with the Alabama Physical Therapy Association Fall Meeting at the Westin Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama.**



**Remember! All Alabama Board of Physical Therapy meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend!**

**Our next meeting is October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017 on the campus of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, Alabama at 10:00AM.**

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